

**Northern Ireland Social Care Council  
Registrants' Forum  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017, 10:30am  
NISCC Offices, Belfast**

**Present**

Roberta Magee (Chair)  
Dillon McMahon (Positive Futures)

Carolyn Ewart (Deputy Chair)  
Loughlin Duffy (NIPSA)

**Apologies**

Rachel Killen (SHSCT)

Nichola Shanks (Inspire)

**In Attendance**

Patricia Higgins (Director of Regulation and Standards)

Andre McKeown (Comms Manager)

Catherine Maguire (Professional Advisor)

Helen McVicker (Head of FTP)

Jordan Adair (Minute Taker)

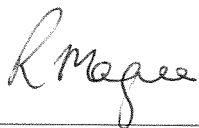
Item	Agenda	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcomes and Apologies</b>	
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted from Rachel Killen and Nichola Shanks.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	
2.1	The minutes from the previous meeting held on Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2017 were agreed as a true and accurate record.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
3.1	<u>Employers Code of Practice – Helen McVicker</u> Ms McVicker reported that the Council had approved the revised Standards for Employers and that it was subsequently sent to RQIA for endorsement by the Executive Management Team. The document will then be sent to the Department of Health. It is hoped to hold a launch of the Standards in May. It was agreed that a draft copy would be sent to Members.	JA
3.2	<u>NISCC Website – Andre McKeown</u> Ms McKeown informed the Members that she has only received biographies from Mr McMahon and Mr Maguire for the Registrant's	

	<p>Forum section on the website. She agreed to resend the email. Ms Ewart volunteered her colleague Andy McClenaghan (NIASW) to assist Ms McKeown and Mr Maguire with the design of the Registrant's Forum page.</p>	
3.3	<p><u>"What I need from my Social Care Worker" – Catherine Maguire</u>  Ms Maguire advised Members that there has been a delay in this project due to a lack of availability of attendee's so no meeting had taken place as yet. In the interim, she has met with the Employer's Advisory Group to get their support for the project.</p>	
3.4	<p><u>NISCC Council Membership</u>  The Director of Regulation and Standards reported that the Public Appointments Unit will be advertising for new NISCC council members over the next few weeks and urged anyone who is thinking of applying to speak to her about the application process. She reminded Members that a total of seven seats are available, 3 for registrants and there will be an appointment of a new Chair.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>GAIN Update – Helen McVicker</b>  Ms McVicker gave a short background to guidance she is developing for social care managers on the use of the Standards. This work is funded by GAIN (Guideline and Audit Implementation Network) which resides under the RQIA. She agreed to share the work with Members once it has been formally signed off by GAIN. She suggested using the upcoming Social Care Manager's Forum events in May as an initial starting point for dissemination of the information. Member's requested the invites for these events be forwarded on to them. Ms McVicker also suggested that if any further information was needed that she and Brenda Horgan would give more localised information sessions in the Trusts.</p>	JA
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Launch of Raising Concerns Guidance – Helen McVicker</b>  Ms McVicker reminded Members that the Raising Concerns document was sent to Plain English who completed a review at the request of the Council. She informed members that a number of the suggestions they made had been accepted and that the document was now ready for launch and print. Ms McVicker added that intention roadshows will be organised to circulate the information following a launch in September. It was agreed Members would receive a copy of the guidance.</p>	JA
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Workshop with Council - Paper</b>  It was agreed by Members that the Director of Regulation and Standards would present this paper to Council and recommend that NISCC, through the strength of its Partnership arrangements, has an opportunity to influence the transformation agenda for Health and Social Care by bringing together the views of service users and</p>	

	carers, registrants and employers.	
<b>7</b>	<b>Joint CORU / NISCC Meeting</b>	PH
	Members were informed about a joint meeting between NISCC and CORU (the Health and Social Care regulator for the Republic of Ireland), recently held in Newry. Ms Ewart had attended and found great merit in this meeting and expressed an interest in having more of an opportunity to speak to the practitioners in the South about common issues and interests. The Director of Regulation and Standards agreed to contact CORU to gauge their interest in further discussions.	
<b>8</b>	<b>Joint Meeting with Social Work Students</b>	
	The Director of Regulation and Standards revisited the suggestion to have a joint meeting with social work students from Ulster University and Queens University Belfast. Ms Maguire agreed to contact Gavin Davidson (QUB) and Denise MacDermott (UU) to request a meeting with student representatives from each university. Ms Ewart noted that it is important to emphasise with students that registration with NISCC is different to membership of a Professional Body or a Trade Union.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Update from Forum Members</b>	
	<p>Mr Duffy noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIPSA is considering domiciliary care worker Job Descriptions as some are changing and this is leading to issues of AfC banding;</li> <li>• Concern about an increase in violence towards staff – in particular in children’s homes and supported living facilities;</li> <li>• Issue of subsistence allowance in supported living settings.</li> </ul> <p>Ms Ewart noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIASW is holding meetings with social workers to consider their views on DH proposals to develop co-located teams within Primary Care. 3 meetings have been held to date and 3 more are planned and are open to attend;</li> <li>• 2 new posts have been developed in NIASW – a project lead post for membership and engagement and a secondment opportunity for a Professional Officer post.</li> </ul> <p>Ms Magee commented on the volume of investigations carried out by Adult Safeguarding teams and queried whether the threshold for referral is too low.</p>	

10	<b>Matters to be raised with Council</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback from joint Council/ Registrant's Forum workshop</li> <li>• Launch of Raising Concerns Guidance</li> <li>• Joint CORU meeting</li> </ul>	
11	<b>AOB</b>	
	None.	
12	<b>Dates of Future Meetings</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017 @ 10:00am</li> </ul>	

Signed:



Roberta Magee, Chair of Registrants' Forum  
**Northern Ireland Social Care Council**